

# Veterans Services

Richard Buckman, Veterans Service Officer

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Veterans Services Office works in association with other government agencies to advocate for veteran's rights and to identify, apply for and retain benefits and services for veterans and their families.

## VETERANS SERVICES FUND 100 / APPROPRIATION 53650

	Actual 2004-05	Actual 2005-06	Requested 2006-07	Recommended 2006-07	Change %	Adopted 2006-07
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Salaries and Employee Benefits	\$ 232,184	\$ 257,522	\$ 269,887	\$ 269,887	5%	\$ 319,061
Services and Supplies	27,102	47,185	31,130	30,130	-36%	41,942
Intra Fund Charges		1,923				
<b>Net Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 259,286</b>	<b>\$ 306,630</b>	<b>\$ 301,017</b>	<b>\$ 300,017</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>\$ 361,003</b>
<b>Revenue</b>						
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 26,295	\$ 26,967	\$ 22,312	\$ 22,312	-17%	\$ 26,607
Other Financing Sources	3,530	-	-	1,500	100%	5,000
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>29,825</b>	<b>26,967</b>	<b>22,312</b>	<b>23,812</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>31,607</b>
<b>Net County Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 229,461</b>	<b>\$ 279,663</b>	<b>\$ 278,705</b>	<b>\$ 276,205</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>\$ 329,396</b>
Allocated Positions	3	3	3	3	0%	4

## CORE FUNCTION

### Veterans Services

Veterans Services assists clients in obtaining benefits from state and federal government agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for claims related to compensation and pensions, survivor benefits, education, vocational rehabilitation, home loans, life insurance, and burial benefits. One of the main functions of the office is to deliver the State of California's College Fee Waiver Program to the children of disabled veterans. The office also assists veterans in obtaining medical treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### FY 2005-06 Major Accomplishments

- Rewrote the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers Strategic Plan.
- Continued to lobby for increased state funding for the County Veterans Service Officers Fund.
- Connected to the VA computer system to provide real time system information.
- Continued outreach efforts to veterans and their families with a primary focus on veterans in the senior community.
- In cooperation with the Health and Human Services Department, identified all veterans and their dependents in Placer County who are either on Medi-Cal, living in a skilled nursing facility, or homeless.

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## FY 2006-07 Planned Accomplishments

- Continue outreach efforts to veterans and their families with a primary focus on veterans in the senior community.
- In cooperation with the Health and Human Services Department, identify all veterans and their dependents in Placer County who are either on Medi-Cal, living in a skilled nursing facility, or homeless.
- Conduct a survey of Placer County veterans to determine if there are areas where they are being underserved.
- Conduct an orderly transition to a new county Veterans Service Officer.

## Department Comments

Due to changes in the Medi-Cal fee structure, the department effectively managed an increase in the number of veterans seeking assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Staff expects the demand for claims in the next fiscal year to remain flat, with the requests for services to increase. The demand for monetary claims for veterans or their families confined to skilled nursing facilities is expected to increase in the next year, and this trend will continue into the future as the baby boomers continue to age.

## County Executive Comments and Recommendations

Veterans' Service net budget represents a 5% increase over the previous fiscal year. This increase primarily represents state subvention payments to counties remaining flat, and for the first time, departments having to budget for Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) costs. Supplemental requests totaled \$2,750, and represent additional dollars for travel and training (\$2,000) and postage (\$750) due to an increase to interoffice mail charges. It is recommended that the supplemental requests be approved and funded with additional revenue designated by the State from the Veterans' Vehicle License Plate Fees Trust Fund. It is also recommended that the department use revenue from the trust fund to replace and upgrade outdated computer equipment that no longer meets the minimum requirements for connection to the County's network.

The County Executive Office will work with the new Veterans' Service Officer to further expand outreach efforts in the community, and to advance the partnership with the Health & Human Services Department in order to identify and provide more comprehensive services to veterans and their families.

## Final Budget Changes from the Proposed Budget

Final budget adjustments include funding and position allocation for one client services program specialist, training and office furniture (\$66,488). It is anticipated that increased revenues will partially offset these costs (\$7,795).

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## CORE FUNCTION: VETERANS SERVICES

### Compensation & Pension Claims Program

**Program Purpose:** To assess eligibility for compensation for service-connected disabilities and pension funding for disabled veterans, prepare applications, and act as the advocate for veterans and their families to maximize their benefit potential.

**Total Expenditures:** \$190,644

**Total Staffing:** 1.90

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Veterans and their families achieve maximum benefits.

Compensation & Pension Claims Indicators:	Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Actual 2005-06	Projected 2006-07
# of claims filed	442	523	370	600
# of awards received	258	201	84	300
\$ of awards received	\$1,369,637	\$1,578,000	\$776,917	\$2,000,000

**Program Comments:** The decline in compensation and pension awards is the result of two factors. There are fewer people leaving the military, thus there are fewer new claimants. The second factor is the huge backlog of unfinished claims. The regional office that processes our claims presently has over 14,000 open claims. Historically the number is around 5,000.

### College Fee Waiver Program

**Program Purpose:** To assess eligibility for and approve applications submitted by children of disabled veterans for waivers in tuition and system wide fees for University of California, California State University and community colleges to assist them in achieving higher education.

**Total Expenditures:** \$40,136

**Total Staffing:** 0.40

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Children of disabled veterans receive higher education.

College Fee Waiver Indicators:	Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Actual 2005-06	Projected 2006-07
# of waivers granted	194	181	190	190
\$ of waivers granted	\$452,842	\$450,419	\$510,460	\$540,000

**Program Comments:** Working with the County Office of Education to promote the College Fee Waiver Program has been more of a success than we initially anticipated.

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## Health Care Enrollment Program

**Program Purpose:** To enroll veterans for health care through the Department of Veterans Assistance, and to advocate on behalf of the veteran for ongoing medical care to maximize potential benefits and services.

**Total Expenditures:** \$70,237

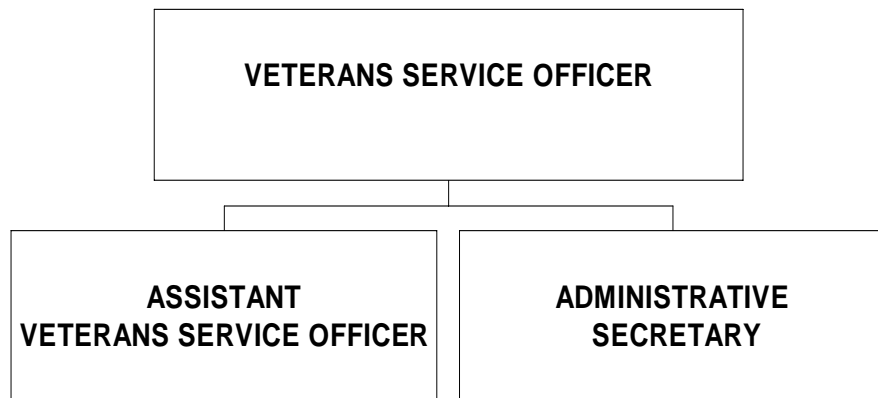
**Total Staffing:** 0.70

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Veterans achieve maximum health care benefits.

Health Care Enrollment Indicators:	Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Actual 2005-06	Projected 2006-07
# of claims filed	106	75	73	100

**Program Comments:** FY 2003-04 is the first full year of restricted access to the Veterans Assistance Health Care System. The result is that fewer veterans are now eligible for enrollment.

# VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER



POSITIONS: 4

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER  
APPROPRIATION SUMMARY  
Fiscal Year 2006-07**

**ADMINISTERED BY: VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Appropriation	FY 2005-06		FY 2006-07	
	Actual	Position Allocations	BOS Adopted Budget	Position Allocations
<b>GENERAL FUND</b> Veterans Service Officer	\$ 306,630	3	\$ 361,003	4
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	\$ 306,630	3	\$ 361,003	4

# Veterans Service Officer

## General Fund

Fund: 100

Subfund: 0

Appropriation: 53650

Budget Category (1)	Actual 2004-05 (2)	Actual 2005-06 (3)	Dept Req 2006-07 (4)	CEO Rec 2006-07 (5)	BOS Adopted 2006-07 (6)
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>					
1002 Salaries and Wages	165,312	180,232	183,693	183,693	216,198
1300 P.E.R.S.	29,231	35,991	36,592	36,592	43,398
1301 F.I.C.A.	13,296	14,326	13,824	13,824	16,311
1303 Other - Post Employment Benefits			5,970	5,970	6,155
1310 Employee Group Ins	22,902	25,293	28,763	28,763	35,954
1315 Workers Comp Insurance	1,443	1,680	1,045	1,045	1,045
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>232,184</b>	<b>257,522</b>	<b>269,887</b>	<b>269,887</b>	<b>319,061</b>
<b>Services &amp; Supplies</b>					
2051 Communications - Telephone	8,708	8,783	11,796	11,796	11,796
2439 Membership/Dues	350	350	350	350	350
2481 PC Acquisition	1,513				
2511 Printing	644	914	500	500	500
2523 Office Supplies & Exp	585	4,119	700	700	2,300
2524 Postage	513	499	1,500	1,500	1,500
2554 Commissioner's Fees	5,402	5,353	5,000	5,000	5,000
2555 Prof/Spec Svcs - Purchased	1,788	20,401			8,712
2709 Rents & Leases - Computer SW	877	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
2710 Rents & Leases - Equipment			1,800	800	800
2840 Special Dept Expense	600	632	750	750	750
2844 Training	600	710	600	600	600
2931 Travel & Transportation	3,106	1,833	5,000	5,000	6,500
2932 Mileage	2,416	2,457	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Services &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>27,102</b>	<b>47,185</b>	<b>31,130</b>	<b>30,130</b>	<b>41,942</b>
<b>Charges From Departments</b>					
5290 I/T Maintenance - Equipment		1,669			
5840 I/T Special Dept Expense		254			
<b>Total Charges From Departments</b>		<b>1,923</b>			
<b>Gross Budget</b>	<b>259,286</b>	<b>306,630</b>	<b>301,017</b>	<b>300,017</b>	<b>361,003</b>
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>259,286</b>	<b>306,630</b>	<b>301,017</b>	<b>300,017</b>	<b>361,003</b>
<b>Less: Revenues</b>					
7204 State Aid Veterans Affairs	(26,295)	(25,471)	(20,812)	(20,812)	(25,107)
7234 State Aid - Mandated Costs		(1,496)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
8780 Contributions from Other Funds	(3,530)			(1,500)	(5,000)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>(29,825)</b>	<b>(26,967)</b>	<b>(22,312)</b>	<b>(23,812)</b>	<b>(31,607)</b>
<b>Net County Cost</b>	<b>229,461</b>	<b>279,663</b>	<b>278,705</b>	<b>276,205</b>	<b>329,396</b>